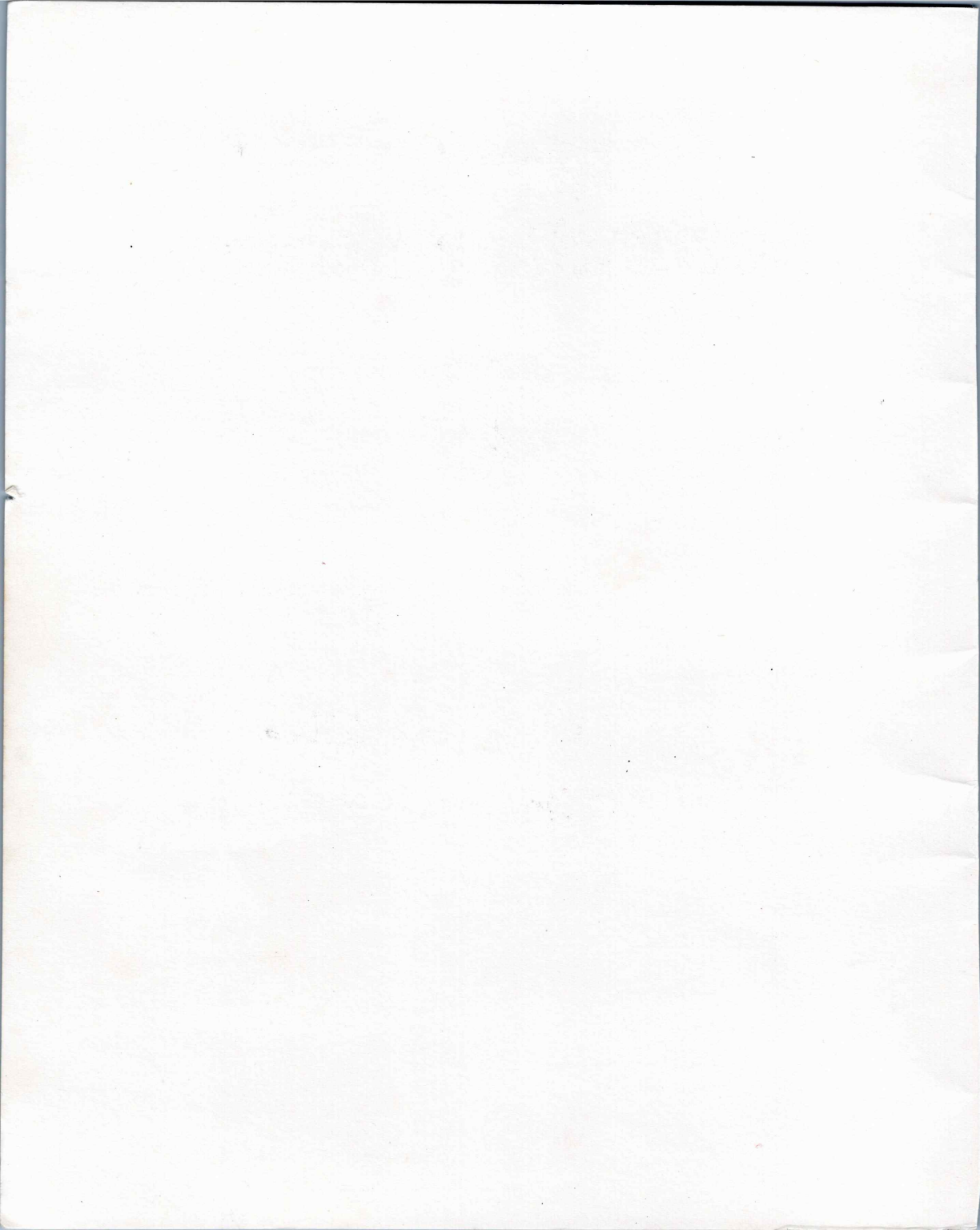


Akaroa Secondary School



Centennial

1881 ~ 1981



Akaroa Secondary School



VITA SINE LITTERIS MORS EST

LIFE WITHOUT LEARNING IS DEATH

CACHALOT

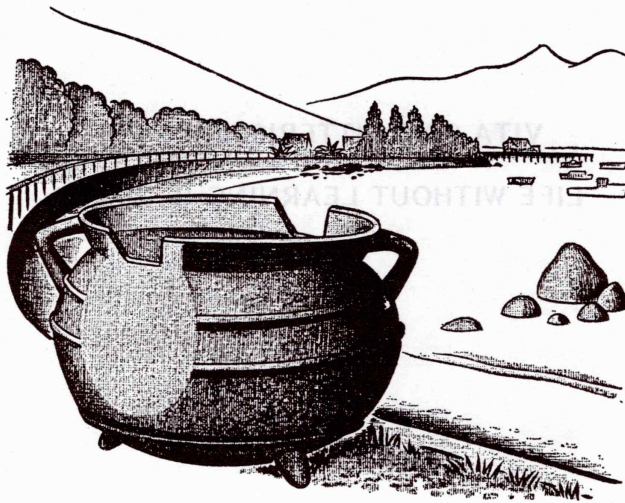
Let us sing the praises of the whale,
Gentle giant of the ocean's span.
Safe, in his watery home, from fiercest gale,
His only real enemy was man.

But once, a whaler, weary from the chase,
Took shelter here, and as the stories tell
Though harsh his trade, yet not without some grace,
On him the lush green beauty cast its spell.

Sped home to far-off France, his spirits high,
To tell his tale: a fair and empty land
Awaited settlers, brave enough to try —
Hither they came, a small but valient band.

Part of our history, whale, no longer fear,
No danger now, no huntsman's dreaded spear.

Ailsa Greenwood



Whaling Trypot.

THE LONG HARBOUR

by Ursula Bethell

There are three valleys where the warm sun lingers,
gathered to a green hill girt-about anchorage,
and gently, gently, at the cobbled margin
of fire-formed, time-smoothed, ocean-moulded curvature,
a spent tide fingers the graven boulders,
the black, sea-bevelled stones.

The fugitive hours, in those sun-loved valleys,
implacable hours, their golden-wheeled chariots'
inaudible passage check, and slacken
their restless teams' perpetual galloping;
and browsing, peaceable sheep and cattle
gaze as they pause by the way.

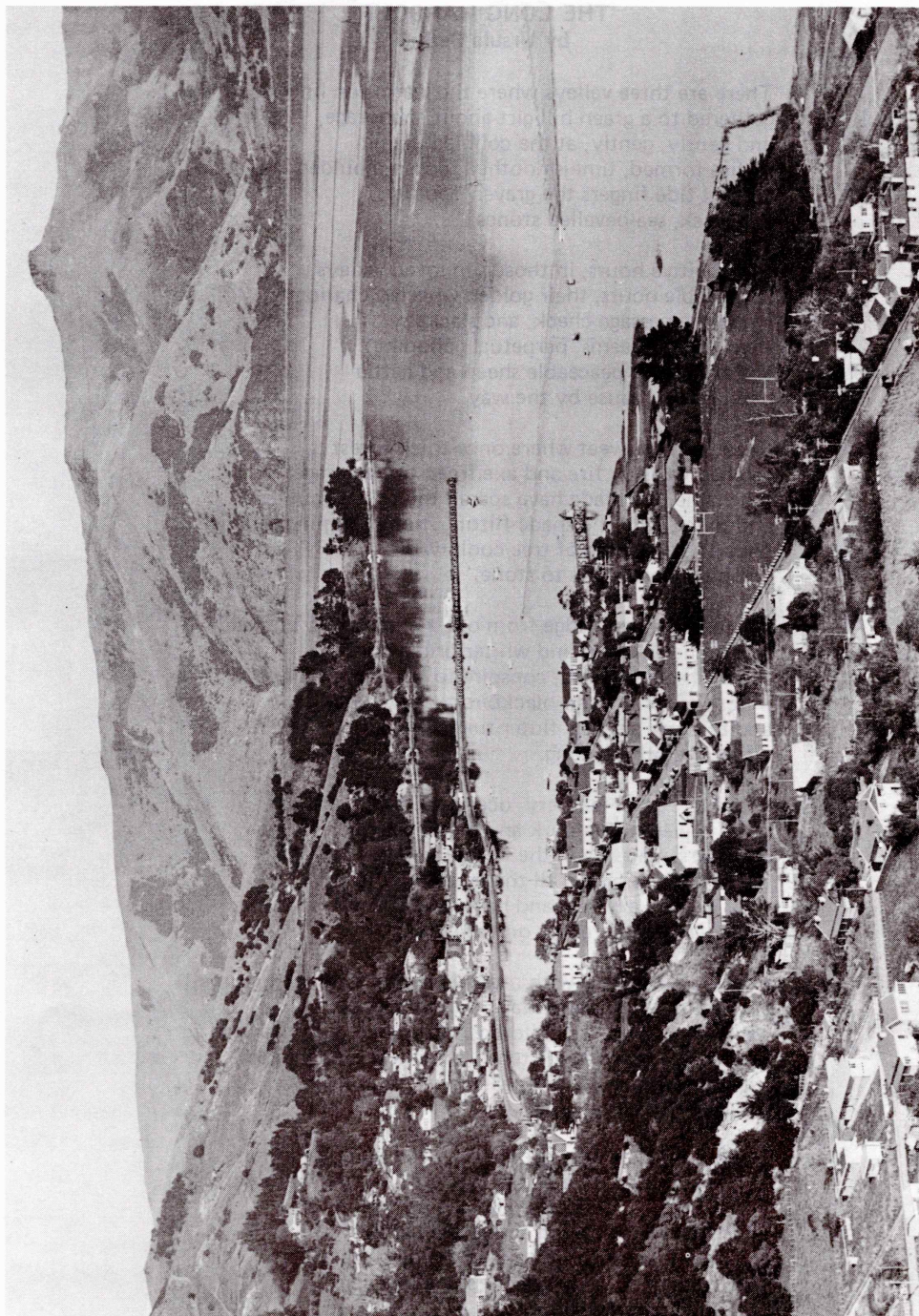
Grass springs sweet where once thick forest
gripped vales by fire and axe freed to pasturage;
but flame and blade have spared the folding gullies,
and there, still, the shade-flitting, honey-sipping lutanists
copy the dropping of tree-cool; waters
dripping from stone to stone.

White hawthorn hedge from old, remembered England,
and orchard white, and whiter bridal clematis
the bush-bequeathed, conspire to strew the valleys
in tender spring, and blackbird, happy colonist,
and blacker, sweeter-fluter tui echo
either the other's song.

From far, palm-feathery, ocean-spattered islands
there rowed hither dark and daring voyagers;
and Norseman, Gaul, the Briton and the German
sailed hither singing; all these hardy ventures
they desired a home, and have taken their rest there,
and their songs are lost on the wind.

I have walked here with my love in the early spring-time,
and under the summer-dark walnut-avenues,
and played with the children, and waited with the aged
by the quayside, and listened alone where manukas
sighing, windswept, and sea-answering pine-groves
garrison the burial-ground.

It would not be a hard thing to wake up one morning
to the sound of a bird-song in scarce-stirring willow-tress,
waves lapping, oars plashing, chains running slowly,
and faint voices calling across the harbour,
to embark at dawn, following the old forefathers,
to put forth at daybreak for some lovelier,
still undiscovered shore.



Scene of Akaroa taken in 1960. Manual Building, Primary and Secondary school buildings all in picture.

FOREWORD

The celebration of one hundred years of secondary education in Akaroa is an appropriate moment for taking stock and evaluating. Former pupils revisiting the school will be struck by the physical changes, the spacious library, the specialist rooms for Home Economics and Music, the Hall and the generous supply of equipment and books. The growth of the school to eighteen rooms and the number of teachers are other signs of the passage of time.

When our oldest guests recall their education — as many will this weekend — and search for the memorable moments they will recognise that the buildings and the books were only accessories. Their memories will be of the people of the school community at the time: parents, teachers, pupils. When they, whose lives have given them the greatest opportunity to test their education, ask what was of lasting value in it, they will not give pride of place to the accumulation of facts, nor to the mastery of technical skills but to the development of their ability to establish personal relationships with others, to live in community. Material possessions, academic honours, wealth cannot compensate for a failure in humanity.

Akaroa is fortunate that its early settlers had a clear vision of these educational goals and that sensitive and understanding teachers fostered their development. Instead of selfishness, arrogance and greed there is a strong sense of community, a cooperative spirit and a lively interest in the welfare of people and the environment.

The present pupils and staff are grateful for these fine buildings but more especially for the tradition passed to us by our predecessors. We are privileged to begin to carry this into the next one hundred years.

*W. K. Keay,
Acting Principal.*

I have been privileged to have been the Education Board's representative on the Committee of Management at Akaroa since its conversion to Area School status five years ago. As in the case of a great many other District High Schools throughout New Zealand, Akaroa District High School served the Akaroa district and surrounding areas for a great many years, providing a reasonable standard of education up to school certificate level.

The reorganisation of District High Schools to Area School status has brought a new deal into educational opportunities for rural children and apart from the improvements in equipment and buildings etc. the upgrading of positions has made possible the appointment of more highly qualified staff with wider skills providing a broader, better balanced curriculum meeting more adequately the needs of today's children.

I am very conscious of the fact that the success of a school and, indeed, its good reputation, depends upon joint partnership and continued good relations between the principal, the staff, committee, pupils and the whole community. This concept of partnership is being increasingly realised in education today and Akaroa is, in my opinion, a good example of co-operation at all levels.

The desire for success which is evidenced by this spirit of co-operation augurs well for the future of Akaroa Area School.

I congratulate the school on its progress and achievements to date and have every confidence in its future.

*Mervyn C. Butler
on behalf of Education Board.*

It is indeed a privilege for me to be associated with this centennial, just as it has been an even greater privilege to have come to know, over the past seventeen years, so many of the ex-pupils, teaching staff, parent-teacher and committee members of the Akaroa school.

Together with past committees and principals, I have, for some years, been involved with an extensive building programme at both schools. It is with pleasure and a certain pride that I look forward to the official opening of these buildings on 24th October.

Those of you who have not seen your school for some years will notice many changes. You may wonder at the necessity for all the differences but our present pupils are moving into a most challenging twenty-first century world. We must do all we can to prepare them for that future.

As its chairwoman, I can assure you of the present Committee of Management's deep interest in the well-being of the school and of an eagerness to maintain both Junior and Senior schools in keeping with the beautiful surroundings of Akaroa.

I extend the warmest of welcomes to you all and may this reunion be the happiest of occasions.

*Lois Waghorn,
Chairperson,
Board of Management.*

CONTRIBUTION BY CHAIRMAN OF CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

I deem it an honour and a privilege to be on the committee to organize the Secondary School Centennial Celebrations. On behalf of the committee, I should like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone attending the celebrations and hope that many acquaintances are renewed and many memorable events relived.

We owe our gratitude to our ancestors for their foresight in recognising the importance of education in the development of a new nation. The establishment of a Secondary School in this corner of the country at such an early date is a great achievement when we consider that Christchurch Boys High School also celebrated its centenary this year.

Over the last hundred years the school has adapted well to serve the district and I wish it all the best for the next hundred years.

*Graeme Curry,
Chairman,
Akaroa Secondary School
Centennial Committee.*

HISTORY OF AKAROA SECONDARY SCHOOL 1881-1981

Early Beginnings.

The Akaroa Mail for Friday, 30th September 1881 in an article headed 'Parliamentary' dated 27th September started: 'There was only one Bill passed that peculiarly affected Akaroa — namely the Akaroa High School Bill, and that had a hard struggle, and we owe its existence to Mr Montgomery. When it emerged safely from the Lower House the "Lords" made short work of it indeed, for some of them declared that Mr Baker's School (French Farm) was already in existence in the neighbourhood and was a capital Secondary School, and that establishing a High School would merely be creating a rival establishment, a most undesirable result in such a small place as Akaroa.

The Bill was accordingly rejected but thanks to the Parliamentary knowledge of Mr Montgomery and due to a technicality he was able to put the bill forward again and the "peers", having been informed that Mr Baker's school was a boarding school which did not take day scholars, they assented to its passing.'

Although the Akaroa High School Bill was passed through the New Zealand Parliament in September 1881, the school did not open until September 18, 1883.

Several factors led to the delay in opening a High School. On the first canvass for pupils in March, 1882 only nine could be found: seven boys and two girls, according to an Akaroa Mail report of the Akaroa High School Board of Governors meeting on March 3, 1882.



The Borough School where first District High School secondary classes were held

The Act of Parliament did not set aside any reserve in Akaroa to set up a school so that the Board of Governors were faced with the problem of either acquiring land and building, or hiring a building.

The latter alternative as suggested in an editorial in the Akaroa Mail on September 23, 1881 by Mr H. C. Jacobson who was one of the members of the Board of Governors elected later that year.

Mr Jacobson said, 'The great thing is not to have a fine building, but to have a good master'. He said that a reasonable salary for the post would be £350 per annum and this with the right to keep boarders must be offered to ensure success.

The editorial went on to suggest Akaroa follow the example of the Ashburton High School Board and canvass for pupils. 'When sufficient number were guaranteed, the school could then be started with parents paying in advance £10 per annum each which would supplement the Government reserve contribution of £160.'

In February, 1882, when the Board of Governors decided to establish a High School in Akaroa, a letter was sent to the Government requesting the use of the empty Immigration Barracks for the use of the High School. No reply seems to have been received to this letter until April, 1883. This was read out at a meeting of the Board of Governors in that month and it said that the Government were not keen to lease the Immigration Barracks because immigration was being stepped up and they might be in use again.

It was then decided by the Board to canvass for a building to rent in Akaroa from September 1883. In June the Board made the decision to rent Mr J. D. Garwood's building on the corner of Church Street and Beach Road, the present site of the Le Voyageur Motels and previously the Ilfracombe Hotel. This house had 15 rooms, sufficient space for a schoolroom, master's residence and room for boarders. The rent was £50 per annum and it was intended to charge the master half this rent.

Akaroa High School First Board:

The first Board of Governors of the Akaroa High School elected on December 9, 1881 comprised Messrs Aylmer, Piper, Tosswill, Garwood, McGregor, Jacobson and Adams the new mayor. Mr B. Tosswill was the first Chairman.

In the Akaroa Mail of January 24, 1882 there were details of the Akaroa High School Reserves, recently gazetted in Parliament.

'Part of Reserve 1127, 184 acres of Deep Creek, Waimate being that part of the reserve lying to the westward of the road known as Cattleyard Road; Reserve 1198, 22 acres Umuka Lagoon, Temuka'.

Rent from these reserves estimated at the time to be about £160 per annum was the only source of funds available from the Government for the new High School.

The Board were not sure whether the school should cater for just boys or both boys and girls. To this end they wrote to Timaru and Christchurch Boys High schools for their advice. Both schools replied that mixed schools under one master would not be successful. It was decided to open the school as a Boys High school first and if there was enough support a mistress could later be employed to teach girls.

Five applications were received for the position of master and after considering all the testimonials, Mr W. Walton who was deputy master at Timaru High School was appointed. Mr Walton was a B.A. of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

The following advertisement appeared in the Akaroa Mail in August, 1883 — 'Akaroa Boys High School. The first term of the above school will commence on Tuesday, the 18th September under the superintendence of Mr William Walton B.A. of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

'The subjects taught will be English, Latin and French languages, Ancient and Modern History, Physical and Political Geography, Arithmetic, Mathematics, Natural Science, Natural Philosophy, Social Science, Drawing, Writing and Greek if desired.

'Parents may select with the Headmaster's approval the subjects in which their sons are to be instructed.

'**General Arrangements:** Boys to be admitted will require a certificate of having passed the third standard in a New Zealand Government School or to satisfy the Master by an examination that they are sufficiently advanced not to deter the general progress of the school. Mr Walton will be prepared to receive certificates and examine pupils on September 17.

'School hours will be from 9.30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

'**Fees:** The fees for tuition will be £3.10s per term for each pupil strictly payable in advance. When two of one family attend, the charge will be £3.3s each and when three £2.16s each.

'The Headmaster will be prepared to take a limited number of boarders at a charge of £40

per annum, with no extras but washing and medical attendance if required. For weekly boarders the charge will be £35 per annum and for day boarders £9.9s. 'Any further particulars can be obtained from the Chairman of the Board or Headmaster of the school after September 3.

W. B. Tosswill, Chairman Akaroa High School Board.

On October 5, 1883, the first monthly report of the Headmaster was set out in the Akaroa Mail.

'I have the honour to inform you that the High School was opened for regular work on September 17 with eleven pupils. While I understand that this number somewhat falls short of your expectations, I do not feel at all discouraged.'

'As good an education as in Christchurch':

At the first prizegiving of the Akaroa High School held on December 11, 1884, the Chairman of the Board, Mr W. B. Tosswill said the school had made a good start economically and that he could quite fearlessly say that at this school both boys or girls could get as good an education as they could in Christchurch.

'Besides', said Mr Tosswill, 'I think it the duty of residents to foster an institution established in your midst'.

The headmaster, Mr Walton, reported that although the school opened with only eleven boys to start with it was decided to take girls and in the New Year ten girls were accepted.

Good academic progress had been made during the year though some boys were backward for their age having been kept at home after finishing primary school. The aim of the senior classes was to be the matriculation examination of the University of New Zealand.

Mr Watson said that the girls were at a more elementary level than the boys even though they had been given Standard IV passes at the Borough School.

Prizes awarded that first year went to — Boys: F. H. Sims, J. T. Daly, H. C. Jacobson, A. E. Watkins and J. Aylmer. Girls: Misses E. Jacobson, N. Fisher, M. Masefield, L. Wright and N. Wilkins.

During the 1880's the small school flourished and pupils were sitting matriculation and junior scholarship examinations for university and passing creditably.

However by 1899 the High School pupil numbers had dropped below an economic number and on January 30, 1900, an advertisement in the "Akaroa Mail" announced that unless applications were received from 14 paying pupils the school would be forced to close. It closed on February 4.

On January 29, 1901 a circular was sent to Education Boards in the district that a vote of £550 for District High Schools had been approved by the Government with a number of provisos concerning qualifications of teachers, subjects to be taught and extra money given to a school having not less than 12 pupils above Standard VI level.

District High School:

The Manager of the Bank of New Zealand at that time, Mr Virtue, was instrumental in getting the Akaroa community interested in establishing a free District High School. Mr Virtue had come from Waimate where the first District High School had been established and he put the Akaroa High School Board and the Borough School committee in touch with Mr Pitcaithly, the Master of Waimate High School. This helped in paving the way to a speedy opening through the North Canterbury Education Board.

In February, 1901, the school advertised for a graduate teacher and on July 1 in that year the Akaroa District High School opened with Mr A. Gray, M.A., B.Sc. of Canterbury College, teacher of the Secondary pupils.



Mr Alex Gray, M.A. first Akaroa District High School Secondary Department master 1901-1916.

Lessons were conducted in rooms on the Jolie Street side of the old Borough School situated where the War Memorial now stands.

Akaroa was therefore the first locality in the North Canterbury Education district to be granted the advantage of free secondary education. By the middle of 1902 Mr Gray was teaching 33 pupils.

Akaroa Technical School in 1906:

On June 12, 1906 an evening class community technical school was established in Akaroa. At first the technical school was entirely separate from the Akaroa District High School although the secondary school teacher, Mr A. Gray was the first secretary of the Banks Peninsula Technical Association.

It was run for adults of all ages to teach practical skills, in the first year woodworking and cooking and in the second year wool sorting and dressmaking was added. The fee was 5s per quarter.

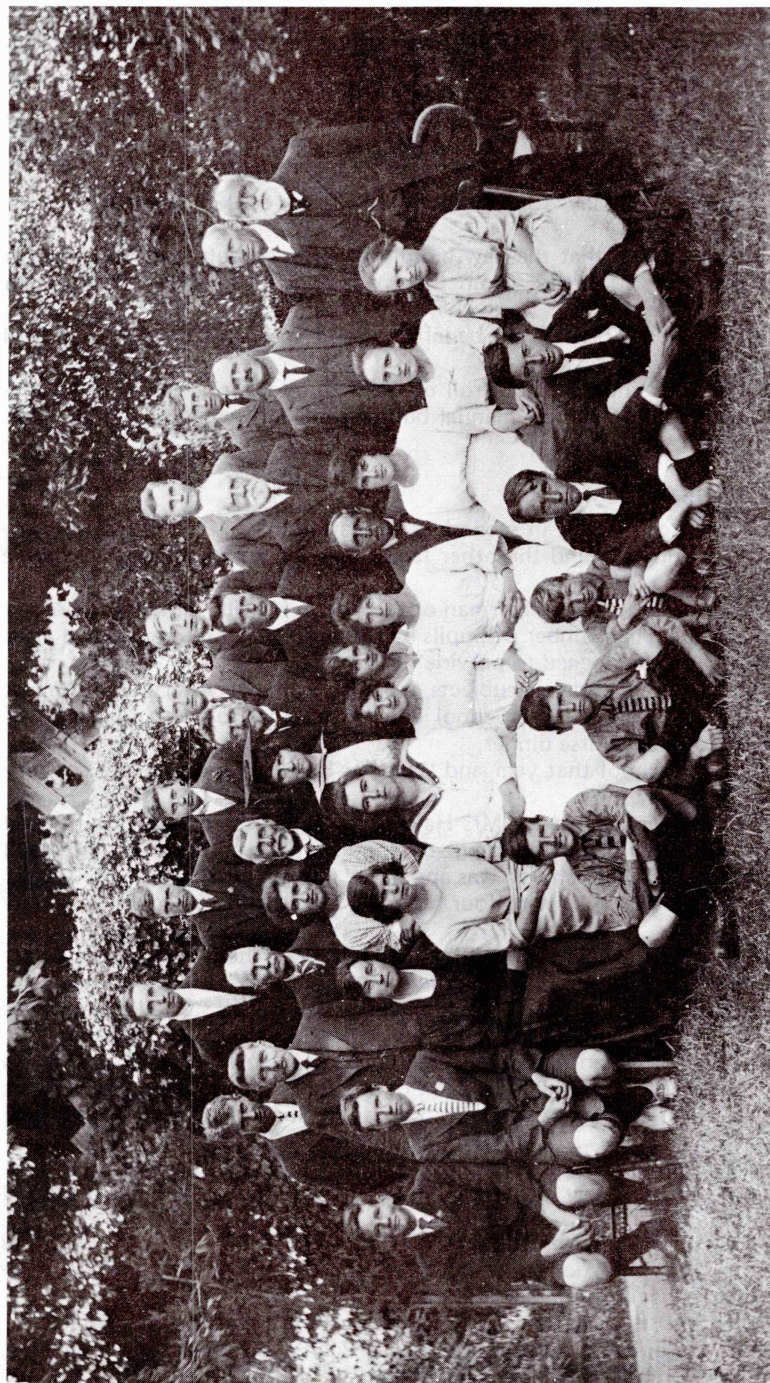
The Akaroa branch manager of the Bank of New Zealand at that time, Mr Virtue, played a significant part in setting up and establishing the technical school with Mr Gray, as he did with establishing the District High School.

Although no reference can be found in back copies of the Akaroa Mail as to whether school children made use of the facilities at the technical school, the Department of Education states that by 1908 there were 50 centres in New Zealand for woodworking and cooking and the Manual and Technical Instruction Act 1900 was designed to secure a place in the ordinary school course for handwork, manual training and 'hand and eye' training.

So it probably can be assumed that both primary and secondary school pupils in Akaroa had some manual training during school hours during this time.

The technical classes were first held in Mr Garwood's buildings on Beach Road but in April 1908 the Technical Board applied to the Government for a grant to erect a new building on land acquired by Dalys Wharf, next door to where the Akaroa Mail building now stands. The Government responded with £820 for building purposes.

On September 5, 1908, the Foundation Stone was laid by the Hon. G. Fowlds, Minister of Education, accompanied by Mr Rhodes, M.P. for the district. Under the foundation stone was laid a sealed glass bottle containing coins of the realm, a copy of the Akaroa Mail dated September 4, 1908 and a history of technical education on the Peninsula.



AKAROA HIGH SCHOOL BOARD 1922

Pupils of Secondary School (near Daly's wharf). Photo taken at School Hostel ("Windermere" Lavaud Street).

Board Members: Messrs J. S. Dodds, H. W. Westenra, C. W. Leete, J. D. Bruce (Chairman), A. M. Helps, Geo. Armstrong (Mayor), L. J. Vangioni, F. R. E. Davis, W. H. Henning, E. X. LeLievre (sitting in front).

Pupils (Back Row): J. Mason, A. Cunningham, R. Mould, F. Phillips, E. Parris, F. Mason, J. Phillips (Next Row), F. Williamson.

3rd Row: G. Boleyn, Y. Whelch, Miss Comer (Matron), J. Narbey, Miss V. C. Farnie (H.S. Principal), N. Munro, K. Curry, G. Coad, R. Green, D. Leete, R. McKay, M. Woodill, M. Petterson.

Boys (sitting on ground): L. Robinson, A. Robinson, L. Narbey, I. Hayward, C. Mason.

When the technical building was finally demolished in the early 1970's, the foundation stone was presented to the Akaroa Museum and sits at the door today. However, the records in the glass bottle were spoilt by salt water which penetrated the cork, and there is still some mystery as to what happened to the coins which don't appear to be in the museum.

Architect for the technical building was Mr George Penlington, an old boy of Akaroa School and the building contractor was Mr G. H. Haylock, whose contract price was £75 more than the Government subsidy.

The new building was opened on May 18, 1909, with 20 in the cooking class and 22 for woodwork.

It was reported in the Akaroa Mail that the new building was much better than Garwoods and besides having a cooking and woodwork room there was a fine laboratory set up with scientific equipment.

This, the Akaroa Mail said, would be of great benefit to those interested in the Science of Agriculture.

Between 1909 and 1919 the secondary school roll of the Akaroa District High School gradually fell off despite a move to the technical manual building in 1914 when the old Borough School was finally demolished.

Akaroa Secondary Education 1919-1930:

Two factors led to a revival of interest in secondary education in 1919. One was the suggested raising of the school leaving age and the other factor was the arrival of Miss V. Farnie as Secondary teacher at the Akaroa School.

At the prizegiving in December 1919, the Chairman of the Board, Mr Geo Armstrong praised Miss Farnie's work in the school. The number of pupils had been raised from 8 to 19 and after the vacation a school hostel was to be opened to provide for Bays pupils.

Miss Farnie, as well as teaching the academic subjects, taught the girls cooking and on August 12, 1919, the pupils of Akaroa District High School entertained the Board to Managers of B.P. Technical Association to a three course dinner.

Bruce Lette was Dux of the school that year and Winifred Hayward received the cookery prize.

On January 27, 1920, a lease was signed for Mrs Hayward's 'Windermere House' to be used as a school hostel. This two storied brown building still stands on the corner of Rue Lavaud and Rue Viard. Mrs A. Aitchison of Christchurch was appointed Matron.

The hostel was opened on February 19 with four boarders but was increased within a few weeks to eleven.

During the year a number of gifts were received by the Matron of the hostel and the most noteworthy was a gift from Mr D. Curry — a cow complete with an orchard to keep it in.

By 1920 the secondary school roll rose to 30 pupils, woodwork classes started and a sports club formed.

Regrettably, secondary pupil attendance dropped and the hostel closed after Miss Farnie's departure in 1923. In this year Mercy Woodill was Dux of the school and other prize winners were Eric Parris, Revina Green, Iris Kearney, Dorothy Capes, W. Shadbolt, Joyce Narbey and Frank Williamson.

In 1930 at the annual election of School Committees, it was reported that the Education Department had bought the site for a new secondary school and a grant was now being applied for to build the school.

In this year began the long fight between the Akaroa District High School Committee and the Minister of Education to keep the Akaroa High School Boards endowments which supplemented the Government salaries of the secondary teachers.

In October 1930 the Finance Bill was passed through Parliament with a clause included giving the Minister of Education the power to utilise the Akaroa High School Board's endowments.

The local member, Mr McCombs, said in Parliament that the Akaroa High School endow-

ment funds 'were being unwarrantably confiscated by the Government to be used for general education purposes.' He said there was a 'very strong feeling in the District in regard to the matter.'

The Minister of Education in reply to Mr J. McCombs, M.P. said that he did not wish to inflict hardship upon the people of Banks Peninsula.

He said that the endowments were granted to the Board many years ago for the purpose of providing a High School at Akaroa. Had the Board been able to maintain a secondary school its endowment income would now be used in this way. However, the Education Board is now providing secondary education for Akaroa in the Akaroa District High School. Moreover, he said, the Board has been using the funds for paying additional salary to the Headmaster and providing boarding allowances and other concessions for Akaroa pupils not enjoyed by those in other parts of the Dominion.

He did say that the endowment funds would be used for the maintenance of the Akaroa District High School.

Akaroa Secondary School 1929-1936:

Long struggle for new building:

It took a total of nine years of pleading to the Education Board and Department and deputations to Ministers before Akaroa secondary school pupils moved from the technical building by Dalys wharf to the present secondary school site in Rue Jolie.

In 1929 the High School Board, which was still receiving income from reserves granted by the government in 1882, and the school committee approached the Education Department with regard to a new site for the secondary school. The main reason for a move was the fact that the technical building had no playing field.

At the school committee elections in April 1930 the Chairman, Mr A. M. Helps, said that the Education Department had bought a site for the secondary school on the corner of Bruce Terrace and Rue Jolie. The High School Board had paid over their share of the purchase money £1,600 and the Education Department had agreed to pay £50 per year for maintenance and improvement of the site.

In 1931-32 the sum of £324 was spent on levelling the site.

The school roll around this time was climbing steadily from 34 pupils in 1930 to 43 pupils in 1934.

The Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe, and Lady Bledisloe visited Akaroa School in November 1933.

During 1933-34 a bus service was established for pupils from Duvauchelle and Robinsons Bay.

In April, 1935, the Minister of Education, the Hon. S. G. Smith, toured Banks Peninsula and visited the new secondary school site.

The Mayor of Akaroa, Mr F. Davis, led a deputation to the Minister saying that the Minister could see from his tour the difficulty in providing secondary education for the whole district. He said that the High School Board and school committee were anxious to see that the previous Government endowments were used for this purpose.

Mr Davis went on to say that the High School Board still had accumulated funds of £400 and an income of £170 yearly. They were not prepared to pay over this money to the Education Board before bringing to the Department's attention the lack of secondary education on the Peninsula. Mr Davis said the High School Board felt the money should go towards erecting a new school and helping the Bays' children to attend it as there was no bus to bring them in.

The Minister replied that he had no power to permit the High School Board to retain the surplus money and if they refused to hand over, action would be taken as required by law.

"I have now seen the conditions myself and I am going to make things better for your children," he said.

He advised the Canterbury Education Board to make a new application for secondary buildings and he would favourably recommend it to Parliament.

The Minister said that in his 25 years' experience he had never seen a school in which the pupils had only the street to drill and play in.

Approval of a grant for the new secondary school came through in July 16, 1935 and the pupils moved into two classrooms and a laboratory in March 1936, in Rue Jolie.

Akaroa Secondary School — the war years:

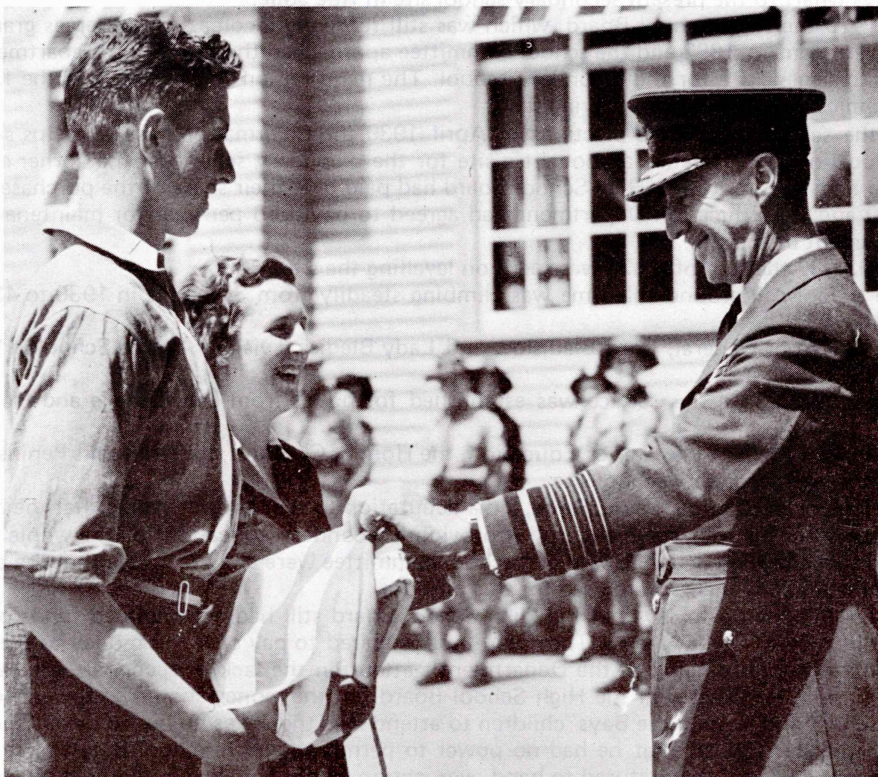
At the end of 1938 a movement was started by the School committee to consolidate the District High School on one site.

First it wrote to the Education Board proposing that the Primary School be made into a Technical School and then five months later the committee impressed upon the Board that they were in favour of centralising all school buildings at the High School site.

The Second World War intervened at this stage and all matters of expansion and consolidation were shelved.

Children made up parcels to send to the soldiers serving overseas and in 1941 trenches were dug in the school grounds and equipment made ready for dealing with incendiary bombs.

In November 1944 the High School was visited by their excellencies the Governor General and Lady Newell. Miss Greenwood was congratulated on getting the school grounds in such perfect order and training the girls for a singing and dancing display.



Governor General Newell presenting a flag to Len Rhodes, Head Boy, and Mary Mora, Head Girl, at Akaroa District High School in 1944.

During the year attempts were made to buy additional land near the High School site but the Minister of Education, who visited Akaroa on December 29, 1944 said there would be no chance of new school buildings within two years.

In March 1945, the old hospital building still on the Secondary site was sold for removal and in April the Education Board bought Mr Keegan's section adjoining the High School for £550.

Post War Expansion:

In 1951 the school committee started a levy system on each pupil to provide funds for school trips and other expenses not paid for by grants. Previous to this such funds had been raised by parents in shop days. In this year the Board built a house for an assistant master.

In 1956 with the secondary roll at 38, two classrooms were proving insufficient but a promise of a new classroom was difficult to get. The school had to use part of the technical building again.

However, in 1959 the roll was up to 54 with three teachers and still only two classrooms. The Headmaster, Mr McVie, reported how unsatisfactory this was and the school committee appealed to the Minister of Education for immediate commencement of an additional classroom.

The new science room was completed in mid 1961.

During the 1960's a school house was provided at Le Bons and a bus procured for a teacher/driver on the staff of the Akaroa secondary department. In 1966 a teachers' hostel was completed in Selwyn Avenue.

In 1968 the manual training rooms were completed on the High School site.

Translation to Area School:

The first talk of Area schools came from the Canterbury Education Board in December 1969 and a public meeting was held in October 1970 at which two senior inspectors spoke.

In October 1974 another public meeting was held in Akaroa to discuss amalgamation of Banks Peninsula schools from Form I level. This was not as successful as was hoped because of lack of transport from the outer bays and the fear expressed by smaller bays schools that if some of their pupils were taken away, the school roll would fall below the minimum level.

This meant that only Duvauchelle and Le Bons schools, both served by school buses, elected to send their Form I and II pupils to Akaroa Area School.

In 1975, foundations were laid for two new classrooms and an expansion of office space.

A new era came into existence in May 1976 with the full translation of the High School to Area School status.

The senior department of the Akaroa Area School in its centennial year, 1981, has a roll of 79 pupils and 7 to 8 teachers including the principal and secretary who also teaches typewriting.

With a principal now able to devote his energies to administration, the school has expanded again, the main building has been enlarged to make rooms for a superb library, another new block of classrooms and a multi-purpose hall have been added. All these additions will be declared officially open at some time after the centennial celebrations.

FROM "THE AKAROA MAIL"

News item 1908:

When the Minister of Education, Mr Fowlds, laid the foundation stone for the new technical building in 1908, he paid a three minute visit to the old Borough School and said that he thought the school was still good for some years to come. He said that dust from dry rot was not harmful to children in any way.

Letter to The Editor September, 1900:

AKAROA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Sir,

Can you give us any idea when the above named school is likely to be opened? We have been waiting for close on seven months — what is the hitch? Lord Bless us, our children will be in Eternity by the time the school is opened unless matters are hurried up a little — just a little. It would bust some of our local celebrities to go it too hard. I am etc.,

A PATIENT PARENT

OLD PUPILS LOOK BACK

These reminiscences were gathered by the 1981 fourth form students at the Akaroa Area School under the guidance of Miss A. Dynes, head of the English Department.

Past pupils interviewed were:

Mrs L. Barrett 1903-1904

Mr W. Newton 1912-1915

Miss D. Leete 1919-1922

Mrs K. Donovan 1920-1923

Mr F. Helps 1926-1927

Mr R. Davis 1928-1929

Miss J. Mould 1930-1935

Mr R. Haylock 1937-1938

Mrs M. Jenkins 1942-1944

Father Paul Prendergast 1947-1950

Mr I. Craw 1950-1951

Miss M. Kotlowski 1976-1981

ALEC GRAY, A NAME TO REMEMBER

Life in the secondary department:

The classroom in the old Borough school must have been pretty grim with the one teacher trying to teach 40 children at differing levels. The subjects then taught were English, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, French and Latin. Girls also learnt Sewing and Cooking. Later at the new Technical school Natural Science and woodwork were added to the curriculum.

The head teacher during this period was Mr Alec Gray M.A., B.Sc. He was an excellent teacher and his pupils gained a high percentage of matriculation passes. He went away to the First World War and died three days after arriving home.

One of his pupils, Mr W. A. Newton, who still resides in Akaroa, has given us two anecdotes from this period.

1913 or 1914 the new intake of pupils arrived. The teacher was out of the room so we told each boy what desk was allotted to him and they sat down and were seated when the teacher (Alec Gray) reappeared. "What are you boys doing sitting down and leaving the girls standing? Where are your manners? Come out here immediately and I'll whack the lot of you." Forthwith he lined them up and gave them one cut each. "This will teach you never to be seated when a woman is standing." (If this happened today, questions would be asked in Parliament.)

The unexpected holiday:

During the replacement of Daly's wharf, the new piles were having steel points spiked on prior to being driven and this was being done outside the classroom windows. The noise was so terrific, Alec poked his head out the window and asked very politely if this particular work could not be done outside school hours as it was very disturbing. No reply was forthcoming and the work went on. Alec put up with the racket for half an hour and then blew his top. "Go on home the lot of you. You can't work with that noise." Naturally the pupils didn't need to be told twice.

A WOMAN AT THE HELM

Miss V. Farnie, who taught at the High School from 1919 to 1923 left a great impression on one of her pupils, Mrs Mercy Lawn (nee Woodill). 'She was able to teach us how to learn — not just to sit and wait to be taught', Mr Lawn says.

AKAROA HIGH SCHOOL HOSTEL, I LIVED THERE

Mrs K. Donovan (nee Curry) recalls life as a boarder at Windermere House.

"After the war ended in 1918 and the epidemic which followed, a former boarding house on the corner of Rue Lavaud facing the Pompallier settlement was renovated and made ready for the residence of 15 boys and three girls from all parts of the Peninsula.

Mrs Aitchison, a capable and kindly woman, was our matron and Miss Winifred Hayward assistant matron with Miss Farnie as Principal. Later the matron was Mrs Gilray.



The School Hostel — Windermere House.

The hostel was to a certain extent self-supporting and so enabled the pupils to perform the practical side of the subjects on the curriculum Agriculture and Dairy Science. The boys milked two cows night and morning and separated the milk.

We girls took turns at making the butter which on hot summer days was a long arduous task. There was poultry to be supervised and a very productive vegetable garden to cultivate.

Our day began with the first bell at 6 a.m. when a cold shower had to be taken and we all had our various duties for the week to attend to. Piano practice with two pianos going together was always on the air at an early hour.

We had rules to conform to and any neglect of a duty was met by a fine of sixpence. After school at night we had an hour of recreation before and after tea at 5 p.m., prep at 7 p.m. for two hours and lights out at 9.30 p.m.

During the year we were encouraged to take part in various sports, music and drama. The term dances were something to be remembered and all things considered, we all remember our days at the Akaroa High School as a very happy period of our lives.

TUCKSHOPS ARE NOT NEW

Mr F. Helps recalled that the corner shop run during the 1920/30's by Mrs Bell and her daughter did very well out of the High School pupils. At morning interval the pupils used to rush up to the shop and purchase bottles of fizz and ice creams.

During the 1930's when Miss Jessie Mould was a pupil at the High School pupils were still patronising Bell's corner store and one remembers well. "Jessie Thomson, daughter of the Takamatua Dairy Factory Manager was the only pupil I knew who had pocket money to spend every day. She was generous and would give us a lick of her one penny ice cream and share her penny's worth of aniseed balls or vanilla rock with us. I am sure she had three pennies a day to spend when most of us were lucky to receive a penny sweet on Saturday.

WHAT IS EDUCATION?

Miss Nell Cooper was the 3rd. form teacher during 1926/1927, and the classroom was the cooking room with the tables used as desks. Mr Rex Davis, one of Miss Cooper's ex pupils, says the class got a great kick out of watching her stretch up to the top of the blackboard.

It was the age of long bloomers and reasonably short dresses, and everytime she used to reach up to the top of the blackboard, she would show an inch of bloomers, which of course were almost knee length. The class were very naughty and would titter at every showing or change of colour.

WE CALLED HIM "STICKY"

During the twenties Mr C. B. A. Arnold took over the reins of head teacher at the High School in 1924 until 1950 and a great many old pupils will have memories of "Sticky" Arnold as he was affectionately called.

Mr A. F. Helps, a third and fourth pupil in 1926/1927 recalls a major event while he was at school — Mr Arnold set fire to his trousers while standing with his back to the ample coal fire one cold winter's day.

Mr Davis remembers Mr Arnold with affection and says he was a modest man and had a particular ability to pass on knowledge without pressure. Rex Davis tried his patience just a bit too much on one occasion when he had decided not to do some set work. Rex was told by Mr Arnold, "I will see you after school Davish," (Mr Arnold had an impediment). Rex waited in the corridor after school thinking all the time that Mr Arnold was too mild to act very seriously. However a voice called, "Come in Davish". The cupboard was opened and out came the three foot strap and — six of the best.

'Man did that hurt but I was left with a strange feeling that I had caused much pain for both of us,' Rex Davis recalls.

A SCHOOL WITHOUT A PLAYGROUND

"We had no playground at the Manual School. We played on the street between the school and the old butter factory. Sometimes we ate our lunch in Louis Vangioni's section (now the Children's Playground), behind the school or at the Baths near the main bathing beach. We fed seagulls on our crusts and apple cores. I well remember watching an apple core descend, whole, down a swan's neck. On hot days we read Shakespeare in the shed on the end of Daly's wharf and it was there that the Form 3 boys were ducked in an Initiation Ceremony. If they were co-operative, only their hair was dipped in the sea, but if they struggled, a little more was likely to get wet."

THREE ROOMS AND THIRTEEN SUBJECTS

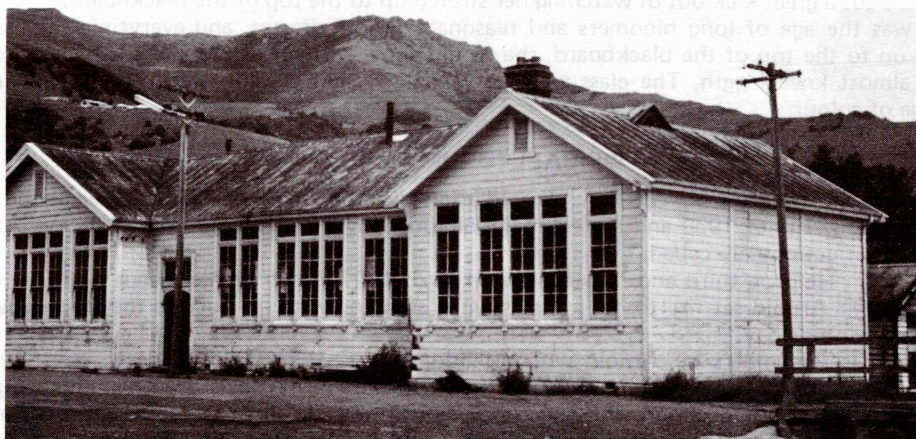
Miss Sheila Brown taught Form 111 in the Cooking and Dressmaking room. She also taught Home Science, French, Typing, and Shorthand to all other classes.

Mr C. B. Arnold taught all Forms (except Form 111) Mathematics, Bookkeeping, General Experimental Science, Agriculture and Dairy Science. His class room was the Science room with bench and sink.

The third room was the woodwork room. Mr Green was the teacher followed by Mr Coburn who travelled from Christchurch to take classes one day a week. The few pupils who took Latin were instructed by Mr Meikle, the Headmaster at the 'Top' School (Primary Department).

I well remember Mrs Maher teaching us cooking. She would walk into the room combing her hair and telling us to take half a dozen eggs, two pounds of sugar, etc, etc, oblivious of the fact that it was depression years and our parents had difficulty in keeping us at school without buying quantities of groceries for us to play with at cooking classes.

Mrs Meikle, wife of the Headmaster, and Mrs Arnold both taught dressmaking at different times, in my day. We took Cooking and Dressmaking for the first two years only although when School Certificate commenced Dressmaking was a subject for that Examination.



The Technical School in its old age

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1930's

School outings included a trip on the minesweeper H.M.N.Z.S. Wakakura out to the Heads and then across to Wainui, a visit out to R.M.S. Akaroa when she visited Akaroa on her maiden voyage, a lantern slide lecture in the Gaiety Theatre on the 1930 Passion Play at Oberammergau.

Lord Bledisloe visited the school and the secondary girls put on a folk dancing display.

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of George V and Queen Mary each child at school in New Zealand received a commemorative token of their Majesties. To commemorate the occasion the High School pupils planted silver birches at the entrance to Akaroa.

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL

In 1936 the Akaroa District High School Secondary department at last got its own classrooms on the present site. It started with only two classrooms and a playing field to the edge of the tennis court.

Mr Roy Haylock, a pupil in 1937-1938, was taught by Mr Arnold and Miss Brown. He studied English, History, Mathematics, French, Dairy Science, Bookkeeping and went down to the old Manual building for Woodwork. For the first time there were grounds around the classrooms. The boys did much of the gardening and aerated the clods as well. One day two boys were working in the school gardens. One left so it was decided to douse him with the hose when he returned. Hearing footsteps, the boys turned on the hose full force. But the victim was not who they expected. It was the master: Sticky Arnold. The rest is silence!

FUN AND GAMES

A light-hearted look at sport in the 1940's and 50's

We took part in all sports, including rugby. Several potential All Blacks were cradled here, but some did not survive the cradling.

Swimming events were keenly contested some fast times being clocked, but as these were tide-assisted, were not recorded. The sprints drew large entries. The starting line was at right angles to the beach, which sloped steeply, so that the competitors in lane one set off in two

inches of water, while the furthest away was well below the surface. The sand-castle building contest was a high-light.

The cross-country run provided excitement, although there was some dispute over one place-getter who crossed the finishing line on horseback. Actually there was nothing in the rules to say that a competitor setting off with two legs should not arrive back with six.

Cycling was featured, some excellent times of up to six hours being recorded in the slow bike race. The brakeless downhill slalom sometimes resulted in a pile-up at the tricky bend at the bottom of Selwyn Avenue.

Athletics provided keen competition, particularly the egg and spoon race, although once a competitor was suspected of using glue.

A refined garden party atmosphere was engendered by tennis and croquet (there was a croquet green where Forms I and II classrooms are today). Strawberries and cream and cucumber sandwiches were served between sets.

Although archery was not featured could it perhaps be said that I have drawn a long bow?

*Ailsa Greenwood
Former teacher*

SPORT OF THE SERIOUS KIND

In the early days of the Akaroa District High School, education appears to have been taken very seriously as our earliest pupil interviewed said that no games were played when she attended High School at the old Borough school. Mrs Barrett cannot remember even using the nearby beach for swimming during school hours.

When the move to the Technical School was made around 1912 there were only two boys in High School — not enough for competitive sport. However, girls were playing tennis down at the Recreation Ground by 1920 according to Miss Dorothy Leete, a pupil at that time.

However, when Mr C. B. Arnold joined the school as teacher in 1924, he encouraged the boys to play cricket and rugby. The High School was then housed in the Technical buildings which had no playing fields at all so that all sport had to be played on the Recreation Grounds. Mr Frank Helps, a pupil in the 1920's recalls —

"Mr Arnold not only coached the boys but also organised a team of those who had already left school which he named 'The Pirates', who challenged the school team at rugby or cricket depending on the season, each Wednesday afternoon. Tennis was also coached.

"Our swimming pool was the sandy beach," Mr Helps recalls, "and any competitions took place between the Public Baths (where the Plunket rooms now stand) and Dalys wharf."

In the 1930's Miss Jessie Mould says she remembers playing basketball down at the Recreation Ground and hating it, especially when her school uniform got covered in mud and had to be cleaned before next morning. During this period inter-school matches were played with other country schools. In the 1930's it was Southbridge and Sumner District High Schools who visited Akaroa. This tradition has been kept up and today competitive sport is played against Southbridge, Oxford and Cheviot schools.

Paul Prendergast, now a Catholic Priest in Peru recalls his school days at the end of the 1940's.

"We didn't get much sport with other schools but we did play Lincoln once a year at football and basketball. Most years they beat us easily at football but I remember that in my last year (1950) we won 8-3 which was quite a triumph.

During the 1950-60's Mrs Molly Helps made a great contribution to fostering a love of netball at the school and laid the foundations for the successes in the 1970's. Shirley Langrope toured the world as captain of the N.Z. Netball team in 1970-71 and Maxine Blomquist was a member of the N.Z. Netball team to tour U.K. in 1974, played in the World Tournament in Auckland in 1975 and Trinidad in 1979.

MUCH ADO IN '42

We enrolled in nineteen forty two.
Initiation our heads stuck down the loo.
There was Linda, Mary and Ray,
Joined by Barbara and Alison May.
Fed up with all the swot and learning
To have some fun we were yearning
We played the wag one sunny day in May
Caught the early bus to Duvauachelles Bay.
We bribed the driver we went for free.
Giggling and laughing all on the spree.
Of the front seats we had the pick
Of course the driver's name was Dick.
Waiting for the return school bus to appear
It only went to the corner Oh Dear.
Left stranded seven miles from our home town
Our smiles quickly faded to a frown
All the way back to Akaroa we walked
Of what to say and excuses we talked
Home at seven a tired and sorry lot
To find the teachers had foiled our plot
And there was hell just hell to pay
In the mail a letter with this to say
Why was your daughter absent from school today
Please sign and return without delay
They would have expelled us of one accord
But Ray's father was on the Education Board.
Another dad helped that day to save us
Father of the Bakers Dozen Major Davis.
Before the heads we did appear
Our school days over Oh so near
They cancelled all our leave
We were granted a reprieve
School memories live on whatever we do
Akaroa District High School we thank you.

*Mary Jenkins (nee Mora)
Pupil 1942/44*

SCHOOL UNIFORM 1900-1980

The earliest pupil who was interviewed by fourth form students at Akaroa Area School, Mrs Barrett, who attended the Akaroa District High School in 1903 for two years says she cannot remember wearing a uniform.

Mr Frank Helps, who attended secondary school in 1926-27 said his school uniform was grey shorts and shirt, a black and white tie and black socks with two white stripes. This has remained the boys uniform ever since except for the dropping of the tie which is not mentioned by Mr Rex Davis who attended school just after this date, nor by Mr Roy Haylock in the mid 1930s. Perhaps it was optional?

In the 1930s the girls' uniform is described by Miss Jessie Mould.

"It consisted of a light navy britway gym frock for summer and dark navy serge for winter with long black stockings — woollen — all the year round.

"I wore black shoes in winter and white canvas sandshoes in summer. Our blazers were navy flannel, edged with white cord. Hats were white panama and navy felt in winter with blue and white band and the school monogram on the front."

Miss Mould says the white silk blouses were home-made and some wore black and white ties. She does say that as the 1930s were depression years uniforms varied according to financial circumstances.



The Akaroa District High School in the late 1930's

In 1963 the school uniform for secondary pupils became mandatory and standardised according to school committee records and in April 1972 the winter uniform for girls was changed to a check skirt and blouse, with a blue 'V' necked jersey. When the school achieved Area School status in 1976 pupils from Form I upwards were required to wear full school uniform.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS, BLESS THEM

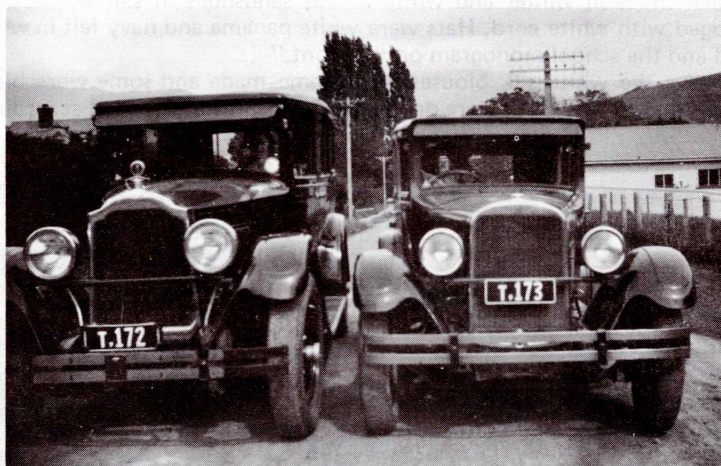
Mr Fred Kingston was the first school bus driver although his vehicles could hardly be called buses. He was employed by the Canterbury Education Board between 1934 and 1937 and had a Dodge car for use on the Kaik run and a seven seater Packard which Mr Kingston drove between Akaroa and Barrys Bay. The C.E.B. paid Mr Kingston eight pence a day per pupil and petrol in those days was one shilling and sevenpence a gallon.

Mr Kingston, who lives in Christchurch now, told the History Committee, "They were happy days - not much money, but lots of fun."

"One of the problems in those days," he said, "was the flooding of the Rue Grehan creek. It would run from the Grand Hotel along Rue Lavaud to Alf Clements' store (now the sheep-skin shop)."

Mr Kingston had to use gumboots and carry the convent children through the floods to the steps.

Miss Jessie Mould recalls these early days in the Packard taxi with Maurice Moore, who walked from Barry's Bay to Duvauchelle, the two Cusdin boys, Arthur and Allan, Betty and



A Packard and a Dodge — cars used as school buses by Mr Fred Kingston.

Bob Taylor, Jean Stewart, Mavis O'Brien, Harold and Noel Haglund and from Robinsons Bay Stella Duxbury, Ngairie Hewitt and Jessie's sister Rona.

"We were a merry gang. We sang heartily the whole way to and from school," Miss Mould recalls. "Fred was a wonderful friend to us and when he married, we presented him with a water jug and glasses. He and his wife gave us afternoon tea after school -- cream sponge and wedding cake."

Dick Giddens, an employee of the N.Z. Railway Road Services, was the next school bus driver between Akaroa and Barrys Bay. He drove the bus from 1938 to 1962 and according to one of his passengers, Mrs Pattie Hammond, he was a father figure to all the children, and took a great interest in the school basketball teams. An excerpt from the Akaroa Mail after his retirement in 1963 said . . . "His unfailing courtesy and willingness to help went far beyond normal demands, and his record of participation in the town's affairs speaks of the man more interested in giving than receiving."

When Mr Giddens was on holiday in the 1950s a relief driver was assured by the bigger boys on the bus that he should go right up Robinsons Bay valley. Once up there he couldn't turn round, so went into a paddock and got stuck, much to the delight of the boys.

Other drivers remembered in the 1950s were Bill Haywood and Jack Chisnell.

Before the teacher-driver service to Le Bons was started in the early 1960s the N.Z.R. Road Services had a school bus which collected children from the Cabstand, went up Grehan Valley and to the Kaik, carrying provisions as well as children to these outlying areas.

For the last 20 years the school bus route, now going as far as Hilltop, has been served by drivers Max Blomquist, Ted McNabb, Des Kotlowski and, earlier, Johnny Stewart.

One incident that has sprung to mind and which happened recently, was the discovery of a sleeping child lying across a seat. Des Kotlowski had reached the end of his run at Hilltop, when he turned round and discovered a passenger who should have got off at Robinsons Bay. Luckily the bus was returning to Akaroa.

Margaret Kotlowski, a sixth form pupil at Akaroa Area School has been travelling on the school bus for the last 12 years.

When she first started school the bus was old and blue with two doors. Not long after this it was replaced by a green vehicle with only one door and now the bus is red. When the bus breaks down the Eastern Bays freight bus has to be used. The senior pupils do not like this, Margaret says, because they have to stand in the back.

Margaret recalls two incidents she can remember happening during her many years as a traveller.

"A pupil once threw part of her lunch out of the bus window and the bus driver threatened to make her walk home if she did not pick it up. However, this did not eventuate because he never found out who it was.

"Another incident happened concerning discipline. One of the bus drivers dropped off two pupils at the top of Takamatua Hill and made them walk home to Duvauchelle."



Mr Giddens and M. Hammond.

LAST OF SIX PRENDERGASTS

From the School magazine of 1970 Father Paul Prendergast had this to say about his school days.

"I went to the Akaroa District High School from 1947 to 1950. I was the last of six Prendergasts who got all their secondary schooling here so always felt very much a part of the place.

In those days it was possible to do U.E. here, with a bit of help from the Correspondence School, and I got U.E. in 1950. All the other members of the family had also got U.E., or "Matriculation" as it was called when my older brothers and sisters got it, so we have always felt proud of the academic standard maintained in Akaroa."

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

The Secondary Schools' Netball Tournament was in Dunedin. We had entered a team because even though we were a very small school we were strong in netball.

Our team travelled in a hired mini bus driven by the team manager and, as seating accommodation was limited, the chaperone and her helper drove down by car.

At the end of a long day and after the complication of a double-booked motel our two heroines found the new motel and having sorted out the party's accommodation, they went to the car to get their own cases. Horror of horrors. Our chaperone's case had been left behind in Akaroa.

How to get it? Why, ring up and have it sent down. Simple you say but was it so simple? Contact with Akaroa was made and the suitcase was wheeled on a bicycle to the 'bus station' and was soon on its way by bus and rail to our chaperone in Dunedin.

Was she pleased to get it? Well, I leave it to you to decide. What she had collected was not her much wanted suitcase but instead a suitcase full of Drama Club costumes which she had taken home for some reason or other.

Back to the phone and after some very forceful and pungent speech her very own case was soon on its way by bus and plane. She was finally united with the case the next day.

A pity perhaps. The appearance of Lady Macbeth at a netball tournament would have been something different.

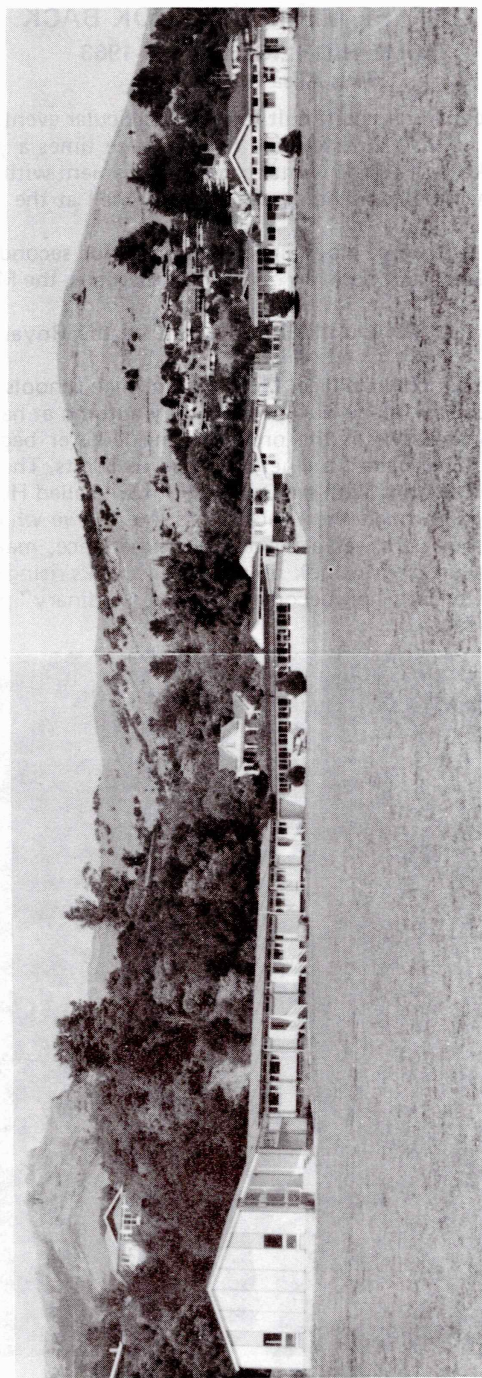
THIRTEEN ROOMS AND FIFTEEN SUBJECTS

What a different place the High School is today – spacious buildings, small intimate classrooms all electrically heated and each specialising in one subject so that teachers can keep their own books, pictures and aids permanently in one place, a large carpeted library, comfortable armchairs and coffee tables in the staff room, manual rooms that have doubled in size over the last few years and our own assembly hall.

The subjects that can be taken today include English, French, Maori Studies, Mathematics, Science, Biology, History, Geography, Economic Studies, Typing, Home Economics, Woodwork, Technical Drawing, Art and Music.

TAIL PIECE

If the boys knew they were to be strapped, they put rabbit skins under their shorts.



Akaroa Area School 1981.

EX STAFF MEMBERS LOOK BACK

SOME HIGHLIGHTS 1944-1963

Miss Ailsa Greenwood

It's all a long time ago now and it is difficult to recall particular events of those years.

We made special efforts to visit Christchurch two or three times a year. One of these trips was an annual affair, to take part in the winter games tournament with nine other district high schools. Though one of the smallest schools, we did very well at the netball and seven-a-side rugby.

Other trips were made to take in plays, special concerts for secondary schools by the National Orchestra, ballet, Gilbert and Sullivan operas, the Gardens, the Museum, the Art Gallery etc.

Perhaps the best show was "As you like it", brought by the Royal Shakespeare Company from Stratford-upon-Avon.

We made several trips to Lincoln College. Most district high schools featured Agriculture or Horticulture, or both. We usually made our visits in early autumn at harvest time. We specially enjoyed the pruning demonstrations in the orchard. One lecturer began by showing us how Dad prunes the apple tree! (Dad hadn't a clue!). He had us in fits. The poultry farm was most interesting. They were experimenting with a new breed of fowl called Holland Blue.

We visited Le Bons to go through the beautiful totara reserve which the government had just acquired from Mr D. Mora. It was a memorable experience, making our way downhill through the carpet of ferns, pausing to look up at the tall trunks rising to the sky. It was made even more exciting because since it had become a reserve, "ordinary" people were not allowed in, so we were specially privileged.



Miss Greenwood.

MR K. HAYCOCK
HEADMASTER AT AKAROA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL 1961-1975

In the first week of May holidays, 1961, on a fine very pleasant day, I arrived at the Principal's residence in Rue Balguerie to be greeted by Committee members who were laboriously assisting to unload our furniture and effects from a Collingwood Transport truck. My wife, two sons and I were made to feel very welcome, though, in a measure, it was not until the end of the holidays that we were recognised as "locals" and not just "visitors" by any folk other than school staff or Committee.

The term began with my near impossible task of full time teaching of Forms 1 and 2, the administration of Primary, Secondary and Manual Training Departments; all on separate sites and widely spaced in those different areas of the town; all this, in addition to assisting teachers, especially the year-one staff member, was quite a challenge.

There was at that time no clerical assistant nor Teacher's Aid but my class was most patient and tolerant when phone calls, official visitors, and crises of minor and sometimes of major importance interrupted lessons. The pupils were expected to work independently and maintain a good class tone during my enforced absences.

The Senior Secondary Assistant accepted great responsibility as my time for staff meetings, supervision and support in general was necessarily curtailed during those earlier years.

I would like to mention here that the Secondary pupils were fortunate in that Miss Ailsa Greenwood, while Secondary Assistant maintained the grounds and gardens of the Department most attractively. Her high standards were evident within the school also where, in order to improve the rooms, she used her own pottery, pictures and piano, along with other of her treasures.

Five years passed and a teacher was appointed to my class. This freed me from class teaching and I was able to devote more time to planning and school affairs in general. Soon after, a part-time Secretary and a Teacher's Aid were appointed but, alas, no office was supplied for the Secretary. The building of a new Manual Training block in the Secondary grounds brought the school down to two locations.

Vagaries of the weather, in particular snow, created interest at times especially once when snow settled right to the water's edge. Each winter there were usually days when the bus could not get through from Le Bons. On one occasion, after a heavy fall of snow, the Le Bons bus was reported overdue by three quarters of an hour. It had collected pupils from the top of Le Bons but had then seemingly disappeared. The Educational Traffic Officer offered to take me in his car to find out what had happened. Road conditions were dreadful on the Summit Road and towards the top of Le Bons we met the grader driver who informed us that the bus had taken an alternative route via Duvauchelle. All would have been all right if we had been able to return but, unfortunately, we got stuck and it was some time before the grader driver returned and helped us on our way.

We arrived back at school much later to find that the bus had arrived considerably well before us and the staff were all wondering what had now become of us.

In 1961 there were 4.8 teachers for Forms 1-6, whereas at present with pupil numbers very slightly increased there are 7.6 teachers for Forms 1-7. There were six teaching spaces in 1961 and there are 13 at the present time and we had neither a Secretary nor a Teacher's Aid in 1961 but now there is one of each.

On looking back I think that the event most indelibly sketched on my mind was one of the Staff v Pupil netball games. For this the Staff members were expected to dress in very "unnetball" attire. Shirley Langrope who was then a Staff member decided that I would make a very satisfactory Twiggy and I was, much against my will and better judgement, dressed in black tights, white blouse, tennis shoes and to me a ridiculously short gym frock of Shirley's. How girls managed to run round on the court in what felt to me to be a state of very near nakedness I could not imagine. Although I cannot now remember the result of the game I do remember

the final whistle and the wonderful relief I felt when I was once again safely dressed in trousers to cover my near nakedness.

I feel that I cannot close without paying a tribute to the Senior Secondary Assistants who were on the staff during my term as Principal. They were Miss Ailsa Greenwood, Mr Brian Smart, Mrs E. P. Mallon, Mr W. N. Evans and Miss M. McEntee. They all made a very valuable contribution to the school and the community.

AKAROA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES 1949-1953

D. J. C. Pringle, B.A. (Otago) (Died March 1981)

On taking over in September, 1949, I found plenty of administration problems. As well as being responsible for the Primary School on the hill above the Esplanade, the Secondary Department away up Rue Jolie and the Technical School near Daly's wharf, I was the full-time teacher of Std. 4, and Forms I and II.

The Senior Man Assistant, Mr C. B. Arnold, was a B.A., B.Sc. (Canty.), and one Inspector told me that, in the old Matriculation days, he had the best record of examination successes among the District High Schools of Canterbury. No doubt there was good pupil potential as well, and School Certificate results were of similar proportions.

Those who wished to go on to sit University Entrance were encouraged to become boarders at Christchurch Boys' or Girls' High School, and several beds at the Hostels were always reserved for such pupils. Not all of them went to Christchurch, however. Paul Prendergast, afterwards a Roman Catholic Missionary in Peru, gained 92% in School Certificate Maths, and elected to stay on and take U.E. Maths as a Correspondence School pupil. Miss Tyndall, Senior Secondary School Inspector, was quite impressed with his ability. Paul was also a very fine cricketer and played for Akaroa in the Peninsula competition.

In addition to general teaching of the lower forms Miss A. I. Greenwood B.A. (Canty) took Music with all classes. Her practical work in Horticulture was outstanding, and she put in so many hours of her own time beautifying the environment of the Secondary Department that visitors to Akaroa, including tourists from overseas, were spontaneous in their praise of what she had achieved.

Akaroa soil is fertile and the town contained many beautiful home gardens but, at the four seasonal Flower Shows held each year, entries from the Secondary Department were outstandingly successful, thanks mainly to Miss Greenwood's dedicated efforts.

Mr Arnold retired in 1950 and next year, as Senior Man Assistant, came Mr J. N. Maher, a West Coaster for whom life had not been easy. His father had died in a coal mine disaster, endeavouring to rescue a mate, and Jack had had to leave school and work underground to assist his mother to maintain the family. He had studied and obtained his Mining Engineer's Certificate, so that his Maths and Science were sound. Deciding to take up teaching he had served an apprenticeship in a sole-charge school before attending Wellington Teachers' College and graduating with a Trained Teacher's Certificate. He came to us from a position as sole teacher in the Secondary Department of Karamea D.H.S. so that his subject teaching range was wide.

Miss Tyndall, Senior Secondary Inspector, had hinted that, unless the science equipment was increased, she might not be able to endorse the practical certificates of those pupils, mostly boys, who presented General Science for School Certificate. The previous system of teacher demonstration followed by pupil note and diagram recording was just not enough. At my suggestion Jack prepared a list of equipment needed to permit more pupil practice. If the list of equipment I signed as Headmaster rocked me with its length, it must have lifted the Secretary-Manager of the Education Board right out of his chair. Shortly afterwards I received a note from him, asking whether, in view of the high cost of the science equipment in our requisition, I would forego our Incidental Grant for one year. I failed to see why we should sacrifice our Library grant and other subsidies just because Science had for so long been a "deprived" sub-

ject, and declined the Board's request. Cartons of science equipment duly arrived and it was my very great pleasure to observe, on a subsequent visit to the Secondary Department, groups of pupils eagerly practising the processes that Jack Maher had so capably demonstrated. Science had really "come alive."

Sport, in the form of team games, received adequate material encouragement from the School Committee. Miss Greenwood promoted netball, tennis and swimming. Mr Arnold, once a century maker at the Akaroa "Rec.," always encouraged that sport.

Most pupils interested in tennis received instruction at their local clubs. In this connection I should mention the keen interest that Dick Giddens, genial Manager of the N.Z.R. Bus Depot, and Dave Reid both took in the Secondary boys and girls who were members of the Domain Tennis Club. Before the days of TV it was difficult for young players in isolated areas to see international players of high calibre in action, and to learn good stroke techniques. I was therefore very grateful to the School Committee when they supported my suggestion that a car load of our most promising players be taken to Wilding Park to see such international stars as Pancho Gonzalez of U.S.A. and Worthington of Australia. I can't remember all who went, but among them were Bernard and Diana Reid, and Ann Craw. Subsequently I was told that Bernard Reid had absolutely shattered his opponents at the Domain Tennis Club by belting down his service with all his might (and he WAS a strong boy) and then rushing the net to volley away his adversary's return.

In 1951 Peter Glynan, John Stewart, Gerard Marlow and Ivan Craw went to Christchurch to watch the Australian cricketers. In a really good street photograph Gerard's is the only cigarette visible.

Being the only male teacher in the Primary Department I was pretty well tied up with boys' team games there, as well as tennis instruction for both boys and girls. However, after our Primary team had won the Peninsula Rugby 7 a-side Tournament at Duvauchelle I did take the Secondary boys for rugby during a few weeks before the Canterbury D.H.S.. Winter Tournament at Hagley Park, hoping for the "double." I thought we had a very promising team and arranged for local ex-pupils to give them a game to build up their team work. Imagine my feelings when, the week before the Tournament, Gerard Marlow, our most capable back, went down with appendicitis. We had no comparable replacement. "Sic transit gloria mundi."

Swimming Championships were held at the Akaroa (Kaitangata) Beach at full tide. The finish "line" was a rope, one end held by someone on shore, the other by a boy (Donald Everett in my time) in a row boat, kept more or less stationary out at sea. Competitors formed a line, tallest next the sea, shortest nearest the stone wall, turned left and marched resolutely into the briny till all were at least waist deep in the water. There they turned right and, at my command, began to thresh their way to the rope.

The study of local history was capably promoted by Miss Greenwood but I would like to mention an incident that some of my Primary pupils, most of whom went on to the Secondary Department, may remember. With the kind permission of Miss Kay I had taken a bus load of senior Primary pupils to Onawe Peninsula, and was recounting the sad story of the massacre there in 1832, when Te Rauparaha and his Ngati-Toa and Ngati-Awa warriors rushed the gateway and overcame the Ngai Tahu defenders. While we were standing at a gap in the bank where the gate had been sharp-eyed Robert Farrant noticed something. After I had finished speaking he came quietly up and, opening his hand, showed me a round lead shot that he had picked out of the clay. I wonder where it is now.

The School assisted the community on a number of occasions.

In 1950, Canterbury's Centennial Year, a Pan-Pacific Science Congress was held in Christchurch. Dr Roger Duff, Director of the Canterbury Museum, and Dr Skinner of the Otago Museum brought two bus loads of scientists to see Mr Vangioni's collection of Maori artefacts. To facilitate the display of the many Maori artefacts, boys from the Secondary Department carried the large, heavy tables, used by Mrs Arnold's pupils during S.C. Clothing lessons, up to Mr Vangioni's residence, opposite the schoolhouse in Rue Balguerie.

In 1952 Mr Cameron, Senior Secondary Inspector, informed me that, during a conference of Australian and New Zealand Secondary Inspectors, he would bring a bus load to Akaroa. I was to meet them at the Secondary Department and talk briefly on local history. Feeling that the visitors would have had a surfeit of words, I decided to be brief indeed, and then display some of the Maori artefacts for which the district was famous. Louis Vangioni was dead but I had an excellent response from other local collectors, principally Maurice Le Lievre who lent me, besides a selection of his bone fish hooks and greenstone adzes and chisels, the rare and most valuable bone, bird-headed man, believed to be made from human bone. Reg Keegan was another supporter, leading a most beautiful greenstone amulet ("tau tau") shaped somewhat like a hockey stick.

I was heartened when one of the Australians said, "Well, we've heard about this greenstone plenty of times but we had to come to Akaroa to see and handle it." A New Zealand Inspector promptly warned me, "Watch those Aussies. Make them turn out their pockets before they leave." However, after the style of Louis Vangioni, I had stitched the exhibits on to stiff cardboard, and all specimens were returned safely to their owners.

School concerts take time to prepare and tend to disorganise school work. However, after School Certificate in 1952 and with the kind co-operation of a patient staff, I decided we would attempt one, with items from both Departments. Lack of space precludes comment on each item but, as usual, the Primers were delightful, the Primary School Choir tuneful, Jack Maher's Secondary boys full of vigour, and Miss Greenwood's well produced Play, the Trial Scene from the "Merchant of Venice", spell-binding, and notable for an excellent portrayal of Shylock by Ron Ayers. Nevertheless it took the Sketch, "Cough Cure," by Donald Everett and Noel Hopkins to thaw out a rather staid audience. Two seconds after Noel wrestled out of his tortured throat the "punch line," — "NO! She blew first!" there was a simultaneous roar of laughter and both performers and parents relaxed. The Programme was:—

1. CHOIR:— (a) "The Gipsy's Child".
(b) "Away in a Manger".
2. INFANTS:— (a) Song "Jingle Bells".
(b) Recitation — "The Cat's Tea Party".
(c) Songs:— "Row the Boat" and "Little Hands".
(d) Rec. "The Balloon Man".
(e) Song — "The Farmyard".
3. Solo — Gerald Gallacher "Where e're You Walk".
4. Recitation — Jean Wilson "A Little Cigarette".
5. PLAY — "The Birthday Present". — Std. 3.
6. RECITATION — Gerald Gallacher and Jan Shuttleworth "Circle Day".
7. DUET:— Jeannette White and Jan Densem — "I don't want to play in your yard".
8. CHOIR:— (a) "Early one Morning".
(b) "Chanson de Florian".
9. BARITONE SOLO (Instrumental) — Paul Prendergast — "I Dream of Jeannie with the light brown hair".
10. RECITATION:— "Our Old Umbrella". — Lynette Helps, Jennifer Stewart, Paddy Swallow.
11. PLAY:— "Crisis at the Sprats". Std. 4 Girls.
12. SKETCH:— "Cough Cure" — Donald Everett and Noel Hopkins.
13. DAILY EXERCISES — Secondary Department Boys.
14. PLAY:— "A Little Mistake". — Std. 4 — F. 2.
15. LIGHTNING SKETCHES — Gerald Gallacher.
16. CHOIR:— (a) "While Stars of Christmas Shine".

(b) "An Old Violin". Violin Obligato — Lloyd Todd.

17. PLAY:— Trial Scene from "The Merchant of Venice". Secondary Department. Accompaniste — Mrs L. J. Pringle.

About this time the P.T.A. provided funds for the School Committee to place a plaque above the door of the Library in the Secondary Department, in memory of those who gave their lives in World War II. There was already a large Honours Board for World War I in the corridor of the Primary Department but they decided to have just a simple plaque, with no names. I had written to the Archivist in the War Histories Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington, and obtained a list of ex-pupils of both Departments who had been Casualties — Killed in Action or Died of Wounds. Feeling that such ceremonies are more meaningful to children when they can associate names with events I read the list at the close of the pre-Anzac Day services I conducted at each Department in turn, while the pupils stood silently and respectfully at attention. For the interest of their contemporaries I append the list, and the years they attended one Department or the other, or both.

NAME			PRIMARY	SECONDARY
Ian D. Armstrong	D.O.W.	11.12.41	1925-30	
Clifford F. Gracia	K.I.A.	15.7.42	1926, 1929-34	
Roy J. Gurney	D.O.W.	15.12.44	1918	
Denis Jacobson	K.I.A.	1.12.41	1922-29	1930-32
Gerald H. Jacobson	K.I.A.	17.12.42	1921-28	1929-30
James F. Lewthwaite	K.I.A.	15.12.41		1937
Ian A. R. MacDonald	K.I.A.	14.2.42	1923-24	1928
Reid R. MacDonald	K.I.A.	Crete	1923-27	1928-33
Jack V. Masefield	K.I.A.	1.12.41	1922-30	1931
William C. Thorburn	D.O.W.	24.10.42		1931-32

HEADMASTERS OF AKAROA SECONDARY SCHOOL FROM 1883

Akaroa High School — Mr W. Walton, Mr H. Cross and Mr J. B. Harrison. School closed in 1900.

Akaroa District High School — 1901-1906 Mr A. Nicholls, 1907-26 Mr C. Hall, 1926-28 C. F. Arnold, 1928-33 Mr P. A. Meickle, 1934-35 Mr C. A. Young, 1936-38 Mr J. E. Maxwell, 1938-42 Mr W. H. Jackson, 1942-47 Mr W. Tindall, 1947-49 Mr C. L. Harper, 1949-53 Mr D. J. C. Pringle, 1953-58 Mr F. D. Gillespie, 1958-61 Mr R. McVie, 1961-75 Mr K. Haycock.

Akaroa Area School: 1976-81 Mr D. G. McKay, 1981 W. Keay (Acting Principal).

Early Part-time Teachers:

Mr C. W. Leete, book keeping (1906); Mr C. W. Newton, woodwork (1906-07); Miss E. Wright, cookery (1906-08); Mr E. C. Marquet, woollorting (1907-11); Miss G. Dawson, shorthand (1906); Miss Houghton, laundry (1911); Mr G. H. Haylock, woodwork (1908-09); Mr L. Haylock, woodwork (1910-16); Mrs A. Bell, cookery (1912-19); Mrs Tosswill, cookery (1910); Miss I. McCormick, cookery (1915); Mr G. W. Dale, woodwork (1917-18); Mr J. G. Ellis, agriculture, botany, chemistry and dairy science (1916); Mr W. N. Garten, agriculture, botany (1916); Mr W. E. Green, woodwork (1925); Mrs A. N. Maher, cooking (1925-31); Mrs C. B. Arnold, dressmaking (1930).

Assistant Teachers, and the year they commenced service:

1901 — Mr A. Gray, 1916 — Mrs W. F. Garton, 1919 — Miss V. C. Farnie, 1923 — Mr T. J. Donnelly, 1924 — Mr C. B. Arnold, 1926 — Miss E. C. Couper, 1930 — Miss S. Brown, 1943 — Miss G. A. Newton, 1944 — Miss A. I. Greenwood, 1951 — Mr J. N. Maher, 1956 — Mr M. P. O'Malley, Mr H. S. Helm, 1954 — Miss Morrison, 1955 — Miss B. Jennings, 1958 — Mr G. Stanley, Miss Parker, 1959 — Mr A. F. Stott, 1961 — Miss Harrex, Mr P. G. Gordon, Miss Stewart, 1963 — Mr A. J. Depree, 1961 — Mr B. A. Smart, Mr Fenner, Miss Thornley, 1964 — Mr A. Standeven, 1965 — Mr J. McArthur, 1966 — Mrs E. P. Mallon, 1967 — Mr R. Benney, C. Stanley, Mrs Rattray, Mrs C. Narbey, Mr W. N. Evans, 1968 — Mr A. Brown, Miss M. Bradley, Mrs J. Hedgecock, 1969 — Mrs Leer, Miss J. Roberts, Mr J. Sonnenberg, 1970 — Mr Miller, Mr Stanley, Miss Bradley, Mr R. Gallagher, 1971 — Mr A. Connell, Miss Early, 1972 — Mr R. King, 1974 — Miss M. McEntee, 1975 — Mr A. Hawes, Mr I. Galletely.

Akaroa Area School, 1976 — Mrs S. Ashworth, Miss J. Rookes, Miss C. Ries, Mr R. Ritchie, Mr R. Webb, 1977 — Mr M. Haycock, Mrs Marsden, Mrs Manhire, Miss M. Campbell, 1978 — Mrs C. Marshall, 1980 — Mrs B. Garing, Mr D. Middleton, Mr W. Keay, Miss A. Dynes, 1981 — Mr P. Lawrence, Mr J. Stuart.

TRIBUTES TO EARLY STAFF

ALEXANDER GEORGE GRAY M.A., B.Sc., Hon.

Sole teacher Akaroa Secondary School 1901-1915

Mr Gray was a man of outstanding ability, highly respected, not only in the classroom but also in the community in which he lived.

When pupils entered the Secondary School they had either a Proficiency or a Competency Certificate and were then taken through to Matriculation or Higher Leaving Certificate standard.

The calibre of Mr Gray is shown by the fact that he conducted these pupils, in four separate classes, through the various stages of learning English, Maths, (Euclid Algebra, Arithmetic) Latin, French, Botany and Chemistry.

He had the ability and the gift to impart his knowledge to those who wished to learn, this being born out by the high percentage of passes he had with his Matriculation entrants.

He was very strict as to the behaviour of his pupils, not tolerating any nonsense of a cheeky nature and woe betide anyone who tried to do anything underhand or mean: it would be 'six of the best' at least.

On occasions he took the school on Botany excursions to Nikau Palm Gully, Brazenose, Purple Peak etc. These were very much appreciated by all and the Botany lessons from then on were really enjoyed.

It speaks wonders for a teacher, when invariably, before walking out the classroom door for the last time, a pupil would shake Mr Gray's hand and say, "Thank you, Sir, for all you have done for me."

Mr Gray volunteered for "Active Service" early in 1915, serving overseas as a "Quarter Master Sergeant Major." He returned to Akaroa in 1918 very ill and died a few days later.

He was survived by his wife Olive (nee LeLievre) and his only son Etienne.

A fitted epitaph would be, "He lived respected, and died regretted."

Contributed by Mr W. A. Newton, one of Mr Gray's students.

"STICKY"

Two score years and ten have gone into limbo since I walked out of Sticky's class for the last time.

It's easy to remember but harder to describe what manner of man was Clarence Banks Arnold, B.Sc. By nature, quiet and reserved, he seldom used "the big stick" in class. He did have a cane but in all four years I never saw him use it.

As a teacher he left no great lasting impression on me. On looking back, I do not think he enjoyed the best of health as he always had a poor colour and was painfully thin. Even then he had a desiccated look not unlike his sense of humour which must have been tried many, many times.

I remember once during a literature period he read aloud a story by Bret Harte in which the hero — or villain, — placed two guns and a bowie knife on the saloon bar and said, "I have here two bowers and the ace."

Asked Sticky, "What game of cards is he referring to?"

The usual clicking of fingers left the questioner unsatisfied.

"That boy doodling in the front seat,"

"Er! Er! Bridge, Sir," I replied.

The idea of these wild desperadoes sitting down to a rubber was too much for Sticky who was furious.

He had a speech impediment which livened many a lesson. For some obscure reason, he had great difficulty in pronouncing the letter "l". He would say bwue for blue and bwack for black. Naturally "bwuish bwack" became one of our favourite combinations. In later years it was joy to hear his bid "one cwub" at the card table.

One other occasion that comes to mind happened when some of the boys started writing rather dubious notes to certain girls in class and passed them to their destination hand to hand under the desks. One of these inadvertently came into Sticky's possession and he took rather a dim view of the happening. We did not appreciate the five minute discourse we received on our disgusting behaviour. Here was an opportunity too good to miss. One wag went through all the motions and managed to get himself caught. On his note was written, "How is your father?"

In those unenlightened days, sport played a very minor role at school — one school period a week for cricket, football etc. Now Sticky was a very fine cricketer — an elegant batsman and a bowler of prodigious underarm leg breaks — but in my years at school we learnt exactly nothing about how to play cricket. When asked his advice one day, he said, "Just keep a straight bat and a modest mind."

What's in a name? Who started it and why? All will be revealed in the next exciting episode just a hundred years from now. Q.E.D.

Vin Brocherie

MISS S. BROWN

When Sheila MacLeish Brown took up a position in the Secondary Department of Akaroa District High School she was a slim and attractive young woman and as such an object of curiosity to bachelors in what was then an isolated country area. Her vigorous method of locomotion when walking to school was remarked by the older generation more accustomed to the local leisurely stroll. And almost immediately she made an unforgettable impact on the pupils who came within her orbit.

Sheila Brown had been a pupil teacher before training at Teachers College, Christchurch during 1926 and 27. She obtained the usual Teachers C certificate plus a B certificate granted for passing six university degree units which qualified her for secondary teaching. She also studied bookkeeping and typing at Christchurch Tech. And so after probationary service in a number of schools and a year at Hokitika she came to Akaroa.

The secondary roll at the time of the Great Depression when it was necessary to pass proficiency in Std 6 before being entitled to further education dickered about the thirty mark with many pupils leaving after one year and most after two. Sheila taught the third form and took commercial subjects and French for all pupils. At the old school by Dalys wharf her room was in the central position of the three and from this vantage point she commanded the corridor which was potentially the social and high jinks centre of the establishment. In short order a muted air descended on the area.

For Sheila Brown had very old fashioned ideas on school discipline. Pupils were there to work, to achieve success, to learn the niceties of respect for elders and themselves if they did not know them already and to fit themselves for later life with suitable attitudes to concentration, application and achievement. She was a good teacher but not a great one as far as her pupils were concerned as at that stage little thought was given to individual differences in ability and all were expected to absorb subject matter at the standard rate to enable the syllabus to be covered by the end of the year. To survive it was necessary for the slow pupil to catch up or hang on grimly by finding out from brighter classmates or from home.

Sheila Brown got results. There was an almost unworldly quiet in her room. The dropping of a ruler could be like a thunderclap to the class slaving away with bowed heads; one did not shuffle feet, bang desks or scrape chairs. Sheila marked work most conscientiously and 'went over' common errors during the next lesson. It was during some of these lessons that her remarkable command of fluent virulent English helped maintain the spell she cast over her pupils. Nobody ever thought of arguing with Sheila Brown. French in particular was a nightmare for many but most, regardless of aptitude, acquired a modicum of proficiency as a result of her relentless pressure.

Sheila played tennis and golf socially, coached and refereed netball efficiently, took an

interest in drama and literature and developed a small circle of close friends. She was even seen on the beach in a rather revealing one piece costume. Many of her ex pupils on leave from service in the forces during the war discovered that she had an unsuspected sense of humour and enjoyed many a social drink in her company.

By the time she left Akaroa in mid 1943 Sheila Brown had influenced a whole generation of Banks Peninsula youth. Anecdotes and reminiscences associated with her will feature in the chatter of ex pupils attending this reunion and will be a worthy tribute to her energetic and forceful personality.

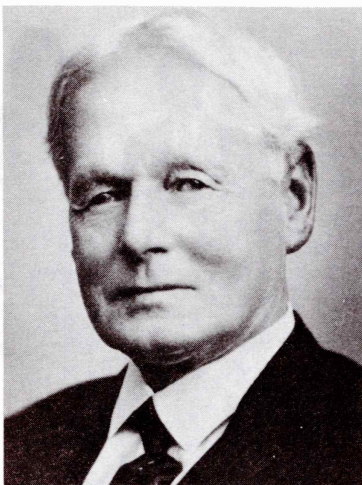
Neil Prendergast

CHARLES HALL 1868-1954

Headmaster Akaroa District High School 1907-1926

Born in Kaiapoi, he received his secondary and university education in Christchurch with the aim of taking up a teaching career.

Whilst he was first assistant at the St. Albans School in Christchurch, he applied for, and was accepted as the Headmaster of Akaroa District High School in 1907. The old school house in Rue Balguerie was originally built for Chas. Hall and his family.



Charles Hall was a greatly loved Headmaster, possessing a deep understanding of young people. He fostered many types of sport; particularly swimming, rugby and athletics — three sports he was proficient at in his younger days. His love of the "outdoors" was expanded to popular Saturday outings for senior pupils; the highlights being his tramps over the hills, or trips on the harbour.

He had the ability of combining — indeed uniting — education with pleasure, and pleasure with education, while still maintaining a strong but fair sense of discipline. Many pupils could recall his skill in turning a dull subject into an interesting lesson, incorporating an episode or story with a strong moral significance. He applied the ability and skill further by taking a very keen interest in the Scout movement.

Charles Hall was a religious man, having Christian principles as the very basis of all he did. He was a lay reader in the Presbyterian Churches on the Peninsula, and after his retirement to Christchurch in 1926, he carried on this duty for some years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking an enthusiastic committee which was small in numbers, but big in heart for taking on a mammoth task. I would also like to thank the sub-committees for their efforts, this booklet being an excellent example.

On behalf of the committee I must sincerely thank Mrs Mary-Jane Price for being our most efficient secretary. She has carried out her very involved and time-consuming office, with dedication, which has made the committee's and my job both easier and more pleasant. Thanks are also due to the Committee of Management for making school facilities available and for their assistance. We are very indebted to the Principal, Mr Derek McKay and the Acting Principal Mr Bill Keay. To Mr Ken Haycock, chairman of the history committee, a very special thanks for his contribution. Although it is impossible to acknowledge the names of all the people who have assisted us in any way, I would like to say how much their assistance has been appreciated.

Graeme Curry

Chairman, Centennial Committee



CENTENNIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Back Row: Stephen Helps, Roy Haylock, Richard Stewart, Bill Keay.

Middle Row: Paul Le Lievre, Peter Haylock, Angela Blomquist, Diana Vine, Joy Luisetti, Elizabeth Johns.

Front Row: Lois Waghorn, Ken Haycock, Mary Jane Price, Graeme Curry, Kyra Tainui, Ann Helps, Marion Wright. Inset: Melba Blomquist.

AKAROA SECONDARY SCHOOL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive Committee Members

Mr Graeme Curry (Chairman)
 Mrs Mary Jane Price (Secretary)
 Mrs Kyra Tainui (Treasurer)
 Mr Stephen Helps (Ass. Treasurer)
 Miss Angela Blomquist
 Mrs Melba Blomquist
 Mr Ken Haycock
 Mr Peter Haylock
 Mr Roy Haylock
 Mrs Ann Helps
 Mrs Elizabeth Johns
 Mr Bill Keay
 Mr Paul Le Lievre
 Mrs Joy Luisetti
 Mr Richard Stewart
 Mrs Diana Vine
 Mrs Marion Wright
 Mr M. C. Butler ex officio
 Mrs Lois Waghorn ex officio

Represented on following sub-Committees

All
 All
 Social
 Social
 Advertising, Programmes & Accommodation
 Social
 History (Chairman), Advertising & Programmes
 Social
 Advertising & Programmes
 Social (Chairman)
 History
 History
 Social
 Social
 Advertising & Programmes
 History (Secretary), Advertising & Programmes
 Advertising & Programmes, Accommodation
 Social

Extra sub-Committee Appointees

Mrs Rosemary Cuthbert
 Mrs Polly Langrope
 Miss Marie Le Lievre
 Mrs Heather McNabb
 Mrs Denise Stewart
 Mrs Maryn Curry
 Mrs Heather Haylock

Social (Secretary)
 Social
 Social
 Social
 Social
 Advertising & Programmes, Accommodation
 Accommodation

For help in preparing for the Centennial and for assistance during the celebrations, the Akaroa Secondary School Centennial Committee wishes to record its gratitude to the following organisations, businesses and friends of the School.

W. A. Habgood.
 Akaroa Pharmacy.
 Grand Hotel.
 Philip Price Ltd.
 Central Canterbury Electric Power Board.
 Walker & Sons.
 J. & C. Drummond.
 Akaroa & Bays Lions Club.
 Akaroa Garden Club.
 Akaroa Silver Band.
 Akaroa Volunteer Fire Brigade.
 Mrs G. Truman
 Mrs A. Cunningham } Centennial Cake.
 Mr Alan Haylock, Marques Foreman.
 Mr M. Johns, Barman Supervisor.
 Mrs Mary Connell, Typing.
 Mr John Walton (Arbor Press).

For help in producing this Centennial Booklet the Booklet Committee wishes to acknowledge its indebtedness to the following list of people and organisations.

School Committee Records.
 The Akaroa Mail.
 Mr W. Keay, Acting Principal.
 Members of the School Staff.
 The School pupils.
 Past pupils and staff who supplied information.
 Mrs D. Vine who researched and wrote the School history.
 Mr W. A. Newton, Mr V. Brocherie and Mr N. Prendergast who agreed to write on previous staff members.
 Miss Aylmer Newton who edited the booklet.
 All people who lent photos.

Names and Addresses

